Australian Bureau of Statistics

1259.0.30.004 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure (RA) Digital Boundaries, Australia, 2006

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Summary

Main Features

PRODUCT BRIEF

ASGC Remoteness Structure (RA) Digital Boundaries (ABS Cat. No. 1259.0.30.004).

Introduction

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchical classification system of geographical areas and consists of a number of interrelated structures. It provides a common framework of statistical geography and enables the production of statistics which are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

The ASGC covers Geographic Australia including the external territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands & Christmas Island, but excluding all other external territories.

This product, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure (RA) Digital Boundaries, Australia 2006 contains the digital boundaries current for the ASGC Edition 2006 Remoteness Structure (RA) (date of effect 8 November 2007). The purpose of the structure is to classify Census Collection Districts (CDs), which share common characteristics of remoteness, into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs).

The Remoteness Structure is maintained as a separate structure in the ASGC because the spatial units (RAs) do not align with those from any of the other structures. The Remoteness Structure is defined only in census years, commencing with the 2001 Census. It contains three hierarchical levels, comprising in ascending order: CDs-RAs-S/Ts. There are six classes within the structure which when aggregated cover the whole of Australia.

These boundaries are intended for display in GIS and desktop mapping packages, and because of the high level of detail, they are not suitable for use in 'low-end' mapping packages such as those included in Excel and Lotus 123.

Operating Environment

It is important for users to be aware that boundaries released by the ABS after August 2001

are based on the geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94). GDA94 provides an internationally compatible coordinate system for all geographic data and allows Australia to gain significant benefit from Global Positioning Systems technology. The transformation of boundary data to GDA94 involves a significant shift, of about 200 metres to the north east, compared to coordinates based on the older Australian Geodetic Datum (AGD).

Older GIS/desktop mapping software packages may not recognise this new datum and therefore boundaries based on the new datum will not necessarily align with boundaries based on earlier datums. However the GIS/desktop mapping software may have the capacity to adjust data to another datum when two datasets are viewed together.

Boundaries are supplied in MapInfo Interchange format (.mid / .mif) and ESRI Shapefile format (.shp, .shx, .dbf, .prj, .shp.xml, .sbx, .sbn). MapInfo Interchange format cannot be used for mapping directly, but is suitable for import into other GIS or desktop mapping packages. However, it is possible that limitations of individual software packages may make it impossible to import all boundary sets.

File Nomenclature

Each file name has the format <file type><06><a><STE Code> where:

<file type> represents the type of boundaries in each file

RA = Remoteness Area

<06> represents 2006 the year of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Edition.

<a> indicates the data is at a high level of detail i.e. "all points" data

<STE Code> represents the ASGC State/Territory Code.

AUST = Australia

Remoteness Area Codes

RAs are identified by unique one-digit codes within each state/territory. For unique Australia-wide identification, each RA must be used in conjunction with the State/Territory Code.

Example:

STE RA Name

1 New South Wales

0 Major Cities of Australia

1 Inner Regional Australia

2 Outer Regional Australia

3 Remote Australia

4 Very Remote Australia

5 Migratory

File Attributes

File Type	Attributes	Type	Comments
RA	STATE_CODE_2006	Integer	1 digit ASGC S/T code
	RA_CODE_2006	Integer	2 digit RA code
	RA_NAME_2006	Character (30)	

All column headers show spatial unit type, spatial unit attribute and year of edition.

Data Quality

The ASGC Edition 2006 Remoteness Structure (RA) digital boundaries are based upon the 2006 CD boundaries of the ASGC Edition 2006.

While the topological consistency of the data can be regarded as high there may be very small errors such as gaps, overlaps and bow-ties.

Metadata

Refer to the 1259.0.30.004 Metadata Proforma under Explanatory Notes and GDA94_Factsheet.pdf listed with this product.

Reference

Information regarding the underlying concepts of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification and its Structures may be found in the ABS publication Statistical Geography Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2006 (ABS Cat. No. 1216.0). A publication is produced for each edition of the ASGC.

For enquiries please contact the ABS Geography Section, see details below.

ABS Geography Section
Email: geography@abs.gov.au

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

About this Release

Digital boundaries for the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure (RA) for the Census of Population & Housing years.

The digital boundaries are supplied in MapInfo Interchange Format (.MID or .MIF) and ESRI Shapefile Format (.SHP, .SHX, .DBF and .PRJ). Both are based upon the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

GEOGRAPHY METADATA PROFORMA

DATASET CUSTODIAN

Title

1   ASGC (Edition 2006) Remoteness Structure (RA) Digital Boundaries, Australia (ABS cat. no. 1259.0.30.004).

Custodian

2   ABS Geography Section: geography@abs.gov.au

DESCRIPTION

Abstract

3   These digital boundaries represent the Remoteness Structure which forms part of the 2006 edition of the ASGC. The purpose of the Remoteness structure is to describe Australia in terms of a measurement of remoteness. This is the second edition of the ASGC to include a Remoteness Structure and the boundaries have been updated based on 2006 Census data.

Geographic Extent Name

4   Geographic Australia; including the external territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands & Christmas Island but excluding all other external territories.

Data Status

5 Completed dataset. No further updates are planned.

DATA ACCESS

Stored data format

6 Digital as separate files for each level of the ASGC 2006 structures represented.

Available format type

7 MapInfo Interchange format (.mid & .mif) and ESRI Shapefile (.shp, .shx, .dbf, .prj, .shp.xml, .sbx, .sbn) format.

Access constraints

8 Copyright Commonwealth of Australia administered by the ABS.

DATA QUALITY

Positional Accuracy

9 The PSMA topographic database to which boundaries are aligned was captured at scales which vary from 1:4,000 in urban areas to 1:250,000 in remote areas.

Attribute Accuracy

10 Geographical area codes & labels are 100 % validated to the 2006 edition codes & labels of the structures represented. (Reference is ABS cat no. 1216.0).

Logical Consistency

11 Spatial units are closed polygons. Polygons are attributed with ASGC 2006 codes & labels. Slivers/bow-ties may be present within or between spatial units. These data include attribute records without spatial objects for administrative purposes.

Completeness

12 The Remoteness Area Structures of the ASGC Edition 2006 are represented in their entirety.

CO-ORDINATE SYSTEMS

Datum

13   Datum GDA94

Projection

14   Projection Lat/Long

Metadata Date

15   November 2007

Additional Metadata

16   Reference: <u>Statistical Geography Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2006</u> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0).